Understanding terrorism

Read Bowin Lee's '17 take on the tendency to typecast terrorism on **page 6**.

Good ol' Opus

Read about the founding and 20-year history of Opus Café on **page 7**.

Choir Musical Meets Mythology

Flip to **page 11** for a review of the "otherworldly" entertainment the Choir Musical brought last weekend.

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The Spectator

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Panelists challenge stereotypes about Islam

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

by Kirsty Warren '18
News Editor

The January 7 terrorist attack on French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* triggered debates about freedom of speech, religious tolerance and the media's portrayal of Islam. Eleven people lost their lives in the shooting, including the editor-in-chief of *Charlie Hebdo*, columnists and cartoonists and a Muslim French National Police officer responding to the attack. As the hashtag #JeSuisCharlie became a rallying cry of solidarity, many responded by conflating terrorism and Islam as a religion.

After an Islamophobic article was published in a student publication, the Arabic & Middle East Club sent an all-campus email stating, "We believe that such writing is only meant to introduce unnecessary tension to our campus. Muslim students have always constituted a small, but engaged, minority in the Hamilton community and crudely attacking their background implies an ad hominem approach to gain attention." The Feb. 1 e-mail took issue with the following statements: "It's becoming harder to ignore Islam's penchant for horrendous acts of violence, a tendency with no analogue in any other major religion" and "...there's a difference between a violent religious extremist in an overwhelmingly secular society and an epidemic of violent religious extremism in a fanatically religious society." The Arabic & Middle East Club went on to invite the editorial's writer to "represent their claims in an all-campus event."

That event was a panel discussion entitled Islam: A Religion of Extremism? which took place in the crowded Chapel on Wednesday afternoon. The discussion featured Ambassador Karl F. Inderfurth, Ambassador Edward S. Walker, Assistant Professor of Religion Studies Aaron Spevack from Colgate University, Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs Alan W. Cafruny, Professor of Women's Studies Margo Okazawa-Rey and instructor of Arabic and Middle East studies Mireille Koukjian.

The discussion was planned by Muslim Student Association President Areej Haroon '17 and Arabic and Middle East Club President Hady Hewidy '17. Hewidy said a goal for the discussion was raising awareness about the relationship between Islam and extremism. "I don't personally care what the audience think of Islam as a religion, what matters is the stereotypes the surround the 1.6 billion followers of the religion," he said.

"I think the topic is important because it actually affects the lives of millions around the globe," Hewidy said. "Some of the largest wars that we have witnessed in our lifetime related to [the question of whether Islam is a religion of extremism]. Hamilton students will grow to be decision makers in this country and elsewhere, thus, having a sense of knowledge about that question will definitely be beneficial."

Haroon began the afternoon with a moment of silence for three Muslim students killed near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus on Wednesday morning. After the moment of silence, Haroon and Hewidy posed a question to the entire panel. The opening question dealt with videos released by ISIS of a captive being burned alive and how that contributed to the perception of Islam and Muslim societies as inherently violent.

"Most Americans experience Islam through misleading media which associates violent terrorism with all Muslims," Professor Koukjian said. She said that three days after the aforementioned video was released, three Iraqis were burned to death by ISIS, but the American media did not pay nearly as much attention to those deaths. "Every life lost should matter equally to us."

Professor Spevack emphasized that gruesome violence can be found in the histories of all cultures and religions. "Look at nineteenth and twentieth century lynchings, horrific instances of burning people alive with white American Christian witnesses." He called it a "historical and contemporary absurdity" to depict a relationship between Islam and terrorism as though it were unique.

"This panel could not be more timely and important," Ambassador Inderfurth said. He drew parallels between 23-year-old North Carolina victim Deah Shaddy Barakat and Kayla Mueller, the 26-year-old humanitarian who was held hostage by ISIS and confirmed dead Feb. 10. A dental student, Barakat planned to travel to Turkey and provide dental care for displaced Syrian refugee children. "These were young people trying to go out and do something for others. [Their deaths] reflect hate crossing religious lines."

"When you ask the question, 'Are Muslim societies inherently extremist?' You also have to ask, 'Are we Americans inherently murderous? Are Europeans inherently warlike? Are Africans inherently genocidal?' The fact is that none of these groups are any of these things," Ambassador Inderfurth said. "They're people and people do terrible things but that's not rooted in ethnicity or religion."

The panelists brought different perspectives to the discussion about the many issues with viewing Islam as an extremist religion. Ambassador Walker, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Egypt and the U.A.E., said that in his experience religion is not a motivating factor for terrorism. Far more blame should be placed on the pursuit of power and prestige, wealth and frustration with the status quo, he said. Professor Okazawa-Rey acknowledged the histories of wars and colonization in the Middle East while Professor Cafruny talked about the American occupation of Iraq, calling it "unprovoked, illegal, and designed to destroy the Iraqi infrastructure and government."

Later in the discussion, Ambassador Walker talked about the United States's role in arming Afghani militants against Soviet invasion, which contributed to

see ***MSA,*** *page 3*

PHOTO BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN '17

From left: Ambassador Inderfurth, Professor Aaron Spevack from Colgate University and Professor Mireille Koukjian

Campus Safety inquiry over missing *Enquiry*

by Ben Fields '15
Editor-in-Chief

Theft rarely becomes a front-page news story at a college like Hamilton, but in certain instances it is a broader issue. Typically on Mondays, the community has the opportunity to read *Enquiry*, a publication of the AHI Undergraduate Fellows. However, this past Monday, virtually every issue of the publication was removed from public spaces such as McEwen and Commons dining halls and the Kirner-Johnson Building. This week, *Enquiry* published a front-page article regarding the subject of "radical feminism," which received backlash on social media.

An anonymous source within the College administration informed *The Spectator* that students had filed a report with Campus Safety, alleging that students involved with The Woymn's Center were responsible. Director of Campus Safety Fran Manfredo confirmed the investigation, but declined to comment on specifics. "The complainant believes students from a certain organization may be involved and we are investigating," he said. Although Hamilton does not have specific rules regarding the destruction of student publications, it does expressly promote the freedom of expression.

Recently, *Enquiry* has come under fire for an article regarding the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks and so-called Islamic extremism. There is no evidence at the moment though that the removal of the publication was in any way connected to this article. *Enquiry* Editor-in-

see ***Culprits,*** *page 3*

Career Center launches Peer Internship Network

by Dillon Kelly '18
News Contributor

As soon as second semester rolls around, it seems that most students begin the frantic search for finding a summer internship or job. Most of the time, this process involves using a parent's connection or simply dumb luck. But what if your parents can't conjure up the perfect summer internship or luck isn't on your side? This is where the Hamilton Peer Internship Network, or HPIN for short, hopes to help you out.

David Bell, director of career development at the Career Center, came up with the idea behind the Peer Internship Network this past summer. For over five years, Mr. Bell has been collecting information regarding students' internship experiences, but nothing was really being done with that data. Students would come into Bell's office to ask for advice on obtaining an internship, but Bell could only provide so much information about the position. Due to this dilemma, Bell decided to create an online database compiled with hundreds of internships, giving students direct access.

Senior Matias Wolanski decided to take this idea one step further by presenting an idea to Mr. Bell to make the database student oriented. With this new idea, students could talk with their peers about internship experiences, getting real, honest feedback from people their own age. By merging these two ideas, Bell and Matias created a social network where students can talk with one another about internships in an honest manner.

The online system they created is very easy to use. Students can search for internships based on career field, geographic location, major or class year, allowing students to find an internship based on their comfort. However, the database isn't solely concerned with internships; Bell hopes to create a "wealth of information" by providing research opportunities, summer jobs and volunteer positions as well.

Bell's main goal in creating HPIN was to make an "equal playing field" for the entire student body at Hamilton. However, the service has a long way to go in order for it to be fully operational. As of now, 25 percent of students in the database are not sharing their information with their fellow students. Bell believes this to be a result of a miscommunication and students not fully understanding the system and what it offers. With hopes of expanding, Bell feels a "cultural shift is necessary" among the student body in order to create an environment where students are open to help out their peers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREER CENTER

Students can use the Hamilton Peer Internship Network to share past work related experiences with fellow students.

Student Assembly Update

by Dan Snyder '17
News Editor

Student Assembly spent much of its meeting this week discussing the campus wide celebration of Class and Charter Day. Dean of Students Nancy Thompson and members of the Assembly expressed concern over the number of medical emergencies that occur every year on the day of the Class and Charter Concert. Student Assembly Vice President Silvia Radelescu '17 noted the stress put on the Mohawk Valley first responders two years ago during the infamous 'Mass Casualty Incident' and dangers of a slowed emergency medical service.

Many members suggested measures to address this problem. A few representatives suggested offering Poweraid alongside the water that is usually offered. Student Assembly President Andrew Fischer recommended that the non-alcoholic beverages be offered in blue plastic cups as opposed to red ones to avoid any confusion by Campus Safety. People liked the earlier start time of Capital Cities as opposed to Macklemore because it gave students less time to consume alcohol and led to fewer medical emergencies. Don Stayner '15 suggested setting up a recovery station for students who have consumed too much alcohol. Radelescu came up with the idea of bringing local businesses to campus to set up tents and sell food. This would help curb the effects of alcohol consumed rapidly and in large quantities.

Campus Safety will crack down on the Eels Porch party this year. The party will move to a different location that has not yet been determined.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Isaac Kirschner '17
News Writer

Madeline Albright to deliver Tufts Commencement speech

On February 3, Tufts University announced that former Secretary of State Madeline Albright would be the keynote speaker at its spring commencement ceremony on May 17. Albright, the first women to be named Secretary of State, served under President Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001.

Madeline Albright's remarkable accomplishments and personal story truly speak to Tufts' values of global leadership, public service and active engagement as a citizen of the world," said Tufts President Anthony P. Monaco. "She delivered a memorable Fared Lecture at Tufts seven years ago, and we are absolutely delighted that she will be returning to the university for this year's commencement."

Albright and her family immigrated to the United States in 1937 from Prague. After obtaining a bachelors degree from Wellesley College and PhD from Columbia University, Albright entered politics where she worked on the staffs of Jimmy Carter, Geraldine Ferraro, Michael Dukakis and other prominent politicians. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed Albright as America's representative to the United Nations.

As Secretary of State, Albright championed human rights and attempted to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons. She also worked to expand NATO's membership and cooperative efforts. According to the *New Republic*, Albright said, "U.S. leadership in world politics and in multilateral organizations is a fundamental tenet of the Clinton Administration."

The commencement ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. on the academic quad of Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus where Albright will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Five others will also receive honorary degrees during the ceremony.

Middlebury opens new field house and Athletic Hall of Fame

Middlebury College formally opened the Virtue Field House, the school's new athletic facility and hall of fame, with a dedication ceremony on January 24. Named after Middlebury Trustee's Ted and Dani Shaw Virtue (both class of '82), the 110,000 square foot Virtue Field House will serve as the base for Middlebury's varsity, club, intramural and recreational sports.

Inside the Field House lies the McCormick Field, named for Trustee Roxanne McCormick Leighton '67, which will help Varsity teams practice during the winter months. Encircling the turf is a six-lane, 200 meter New Balance Foundation Track.

More than 600 students, parents, alumni and faculty attended the dedication ceremony last month. During the event, President Ronald D. Liebowitz praised the construction of the Virtue Field House and Squash Center for being "the first building project in the modern history of Middlebury to be fully funded by donors." Liebowitz later went on to thank the James S. Davis '66 family and the Milton Peterson '58 family.

The ceremony also marked the opening of the Middlebury Athletics History Wall, an interactive archive of the college's athletic record. The wall allows users to select a sport and time period and then explore photos, clippings and other memorabilia from the specified criteria. The entire exhibit is composed of over 6,000 objects that document the college's long athletic history.

Mr. Virtue, who was present at the ceremony, went on to say "we have an incredibly talented and passionate coaching staff to teach our sports and teach those important life lessons to all of our athletes. We at Middlebury we play to win and we win a lot, and that carries on into other parts of life for every athlete who comes here."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

MSA and Arabic and Middle East Club coordinate discussion in the Chapel

from ***Panel discussion,*** *page 1*

the rise of extremism. On the same note, Professor Okazawa-Rey discussed the fact that land conflicts are almost always about resources. "If we trace the roots of weapons [used in the Middle East] to where they were manufactured, I think that would tell us a lot," she said.

"There are several layers of struggle in the Middle East," Professor Okazawa-Rey said. "One of the terms that gets thrown around is 'jihad.' War-making is a very thin part of jihad. Another definition of jihad is people giving what they have to those in need. I'm glad we've laid to rest here the idea that there's anything inherently violent about [Islam]."

In regard to the *Charlie Hebdo* attack, Professor Cafruny said it was a terrible tragedy, and the publication should have the right to free speech. He went on to say that if he were Muslim in France he would be frightened due to the tremendous amount of discrimination they face. "I certainly am not *Charlie Hebdo*, I think it's a very violent magazine. I believe satire is best when it's down from below, by the powerless against the powerful, not the other way around," he said.

When the floor was opened for attendees to pose questions to the panelists, the first question was about the political motivation behind anti-Muslim rhetoric. Professor Cafruny said it was a way to galvanize a political base. "You need an 'other,'" Professor Cafruny said. "Our politicians use their idea of Islam to fear-monger and get people to vote for them."

Ambassador Inderfurth, who was an ABC news correspondent, cited the role of an "if it bleeds, it leads" media mindset. "When you have these horrendous things taking place, it's easier to tell that story than to portray what actually led to this point."

An attendee asked why we see "so many Islamist extremist organizations turn to terror when you don't see this in other religions?" In response, Ambassador Walker returned to the idea that atrocities have been committed in the name of all religions. "If you want to see terrorism, you can go back to Christianity in the Crusades. [Terrorism] is not religion now, it wasn't religion in the Middle Ages. It's power using religion as an excuse."

Towards the end of the discussion, a student from Egypt cautioned against being afraid of ever criticizing Islam.

"[Terrorism] is not a religion now, it wasn't a religion in the Middle Ages. It's power using religion as an excuse."

—Ambassador Edward S. Walker

She said that she was raised Muslim but identified as an atheist. "You can criticize Islam without criticizing people who live in the Middle East," she said. Professor Cafruny acknowledged the fact that the student had a different interpretation and experience than the panelists and other people in attendance, as well as a more nuanced understanding of Islam than most Americans.

"It's true that there are verses from the Qur'an that are very controversial if you translate them out of context," Professor Cafruny said. "Both Islamophobes and extremists are guilty of cherry-picking these verses without regarding the context they come from, and I think that was a big problem with the article published here."

Hewidy said he was also not Muslim, though he was raised in a Muslim family, and he did not see any problem with criticizing Islam. "Intention matters," he said. "Is the intention to criticize Islam, or to make some kind of statement like 'I am superior to you, Western culture is more advanced than Middle Eastern cultures?'"

In closing, Ambassador Inderfurth quoted an op-ed by basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabar: "'I look forward to the day when an act of terrorism by self-proclaimed Muslims will be universally dismissed as nothing more than a criminal attack of a thuggish political organization wearing an ill-fitting Muslim mask. To get to that point, we will need to teach our communities what the real beliefs of Islam are.'"

Professor Okazawa-Rey said she hoped attendees would come away from the event able to look beyond stereotypes and "gain [the] ability to distinguish between particular actors committing heinous acts and the true teachings of the religion and people who practice it."

"I enjoyed the discussion and the diversity in the speakers' individual perspectives and experience," Gillian Mak '18 said. "I definitely think I have a better understanding of the issue. I liked how the speakers focused on the context that the events happen in and what led to the creation of the terror groups, because America's involvement is largely overlooked in our media."

According to Professor Okazawa-Rey, the panel discussion was important to the Hamilton community because it constitutes part of learning to become an informed person, critical thinker and liberal arts student. "As a College community, it's also our responsibility to address bigotry and mis-information," she said.

Culprits sought in disappearance of publication

from ***Campus Safety,*** *page 1*

Chief Joe Simonson '15 said, "I'm definitely deeply disturbed by these actions from my fellow community members. Once again, it becomes apparent that parts of this school are divided into two camps: those who wish to express themselves freely and those who wish to silence any attempts at intellectual diversity."

Manfredo expressed that "no one is being blamed," rather an investigation is on-going. Campus Safety will seek to determine who was responsible for the removal of the publication. In this process, they will interview the complainant, witness or anybody else that might have information. Sources have said that the Womyn's Center, or members of the organization, have confessed to the act. An email to the Womyn's Center and members of its executive board went unreturned.

While there is no law specifically protecting the distribution of free newspapers or other publications, the College does encourage a free environment for its publications. A case at the University of Minnesota-Morris in April of 2014 in which an independent student publication was removed did not result in action from the university administration.

Campus Safety will pursue the investigation, but following their results, they will turn the issue over to the College. Manfredo did not comment on what resolution the complainant or the School is seeking.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator.* Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, February 5, 2015

9:30 p.m. Motorist Assist – Root Extension Lot

9:46 p.m. Area Check – Suspicious Vehicle – Root Lot

10:44 p.m. Noise Complaint – Bundy West

10:51 p.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Griffin Road

Friday, February 6, 2015

1:01 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Bundy West

10:02 a.m. Marijuana Complaint – Dunham Hall

3:46 p.m. Marijuana Complaint – Dunham Hall

4:46 p.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Sage Rink

10:24 p.m. Noise Complaint – South Hall

10:47 p.m. Smoking Complaint – North Hall

Saturday, February 7, 2015

2:46 a.m. Concern for Welfare – Residence Hall

2:51 a.m. Mechanical Issue – Wertimer House

3:43 a.m. Medical Emergency – Fieldhouse

8:57 p.m. 911 Contact – Road Conditions (Respond DPW)

10:15 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Babbitt Hall

10:26 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

11:22 p.m. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Sunday, February 8, 2015

12:03 a.m. 911 Contact – Road Conditions (Respond DPW)

12:43 a.m. Noise Complaint – Bundy West

12:49 a.m. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall

12:58 a.m. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall

1:00 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Bundy West

2:33 a.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Kirner Johnson

3:55 a.m. Criminal Mischief – Bundy West

5:24 p.m. Medical Emergency – Main Quad

5:38 p.m. Smoke Detector Activation – Griffin Road Apts.

6:45 p.m. Trouble Alarm Activation – Milbank Hall

Discourse Before Destruction

Almost every copy of *Enquiry* went missing this week. The people who did happen to read *Enquiry* before it went missing found a front page article about "radical feminism", which as several posts on Facebook would indicate, did not go over very well with many parts of campus. This incident reflects the latest step of disrespect on camps – namely from those who chose to remove *Enquiry*. Although we do not necessarily always support the content in *Enquiry*, we can sympathize with any frustration or disappointment that they may have over the loss of their work.

That said, we also feel that this incident, along with others, indicates the serious need for a venue of rebuttal vis-à-vis *Enquiry*, and moreover every publication. Any organization, student or otherwise, that creates content is aware that their work does not exist in a vacuum. They naturally draw initial inspiration from their own environment, but they also have their own effects on it as well. Sometimes these effects are positive, but more often they are critical, and organizations should be alive to these elements of their existence. Their pieces live and breathe side by side with the unwritten thoughts of their readers, whether favorable or not, and it seems to benefit organizations to provide a mechanism for these opinions to become properly articulated instead of crudely implied by petty theft. Whether you create comedy, art or opinion, as a creator you inspire a more receptive and conducive environment for your pieces by also creating space for any responses to them. Intellectual context changes constantly, and pieces and publications should provide themselves the opportunity to evolve alongside these changes.

At *The Spectator* we have Letters to the Editor for such responses. While this style is not necessarily conducive for all formats, there are also other alternatives. E-mail addresses, open meetings and websites with comments sections all provide avenues for responses and growth. With that in mind though, these avenues also require proper respect and decorum from the participants. Opinions always require dutiful, factual argumentation behind them and a critical ear for prose that articulates with consideration and respect. That is not to say that all pieces are created equal, but no piece, no matter the content, deserves to be thrown in the garbage when more constructive ways of expression are available instead.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

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Celebrating our 166th year in print. First published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

THE SPECTATOR

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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Letters to the Editor

Decrease the hate, don't decrease the speech

"You can shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird," said Atticus Finch of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A kid like Jem or Scout listening to Atticus's words in Alabama during the Great Depression would have discovered the impossibility of hitting a blue jay with a BB gun despite the large population of blue jays and the white people they represent. Jem and Scout watched Atticus nobly defend the innocence of Tom Robinson, the primary figurative mockingbird of Lee's novel, in a futile court case.

During turbulent times when Robinson's fate of being shot seventeen times is strikingly similar to the fate of too many unarmed black and brown people in the United States, it can be hard to realize an attack on one minority, one innocent mockingbird, is an attack on them all. The Islamaphobic comments in the *Enquiry* issue published on January 26th generalized an entire group of people as violent extremists, ignoring the tendencies of various other religions and social groups to resort to violence.

As a white person on this campus, I do not think about my ethnic background as often as some of my peers. During Hamilton's Ferguson Die-In protest this past fall, I recoiled when I heard Utica policemen threaten to arrest anyone who was willing to go to jail for the issue of unjust verdicts and police brutality against people of color. I will never forget that day for as long as I live. Alhough I am white, I am a woman, and I am Jewish. I do not experience anti-Semitism here, but I am aware that the anti-Muslim racism that has been a recurring problem since 9/11 is not unlike the hatred my ancestors felt during WWII pogroms. I am a minority of a different category, and in the words of Audre Lorde, "there is no hierarchy of oppression," so I can empathize with my friends who have been directly hurt by the *Enquiry*'s ignorant writing.

However, an attack on one minority is not only an attack on them all, but also it is a call for everyone, including those who are privileged, to respond. Obama's speech at the National Prayer Breakfast on November 5th, in which Obama stated "during the Crusades and the Inquisition, people committed terrible deeds in the name of Christ. In our home country, slavery and Jim Crow all too often was justified in the name of Christ," demonstrated the power of history; learning the facts of the past and understanding the reality of the present is imperative in order to disillusion Americans to the lie that Islam is an inherently violent religion. Like mockingbirds, children imitate ideas and behaviors without fully comprehending the meaning of such ideas and behaviors.

But the speech is not the problem. Let the mockingbirds sing and have their freedom of speech. Shutting up racism, classism, etc. is not the answer. You can only fight such evils with education and intelligent argument. To create a safer, happier campus climate, it is our responsibility to recognize acts and words of hate and counteract them in a way so that those who come in contact with such acts and words realize that such is hate, not truth.

—Alexa Merriam '17

Re: Mom Baby God

Last Wednesday, I went to see Madeline Burrows in "Mom Baby God," a one-woman show focused on portraying the various real faces and voices of the pro-life movement. I am a liberal, pro-choice theater major, who spent 6 months in Chicago studying how to write and perform political satire. For all intents and purposes, this show was right up my alley. However, I found it to be one of the most misinformed, poorly executed performances I've ever seen.

Burrows portrays a number of characters, the central one being a youth advocate of the Pro-Life Movement, anxiously awaiting a conference for similar teens. Other characters include a male doctor, a Bieber-esque pro-life heartthrob, Lila Rose – a real icon of the pro-life movement – and a few others. Burrows claims that every character portrayed in her piece is either a conglomeration of various people she's met, or, in the case of Lila Rose, an exact impression.

Burrows is a bad actress – which is not offensive in and of itself, but in the context of what this piece was trying to achieve – it's egregious. With the exception of her portrayal of Lila Rose, every character that Burrows depicts is a caricature that couldn't resemble a real human, even if you squinted. The teenage girls she plays all have blank stares, they "up talk," and they repeat clichéd, unimaginative physical gestures like constantly playing with their hair. The men, whether they are sixteen-year-old-boys or middle-aged doctors, all have the same, generic "male" voice, like a cartoon depiction of a buffoon. Despite being based off of real people, no one in this play is real, which indicates that Burrows has missed the point.

The point of this piece is that there are people who really pass out "pro-life cupcakes," and really harass women on their way to Planned Parenthood. The men and women at the forefront of the pro-life movement are real, as are the threats they pose and, unfortunately for us, they don't have funny voices. When they talk, people actually listen, but Burrows would rather fill the piece with cheap jokes and physical gags than conquer this. Women's reproductive rights deserve better activism.

In her Q&A, Burrows was asked if she'd ever had a bad audience, and she responded by saying that, over all, she has audiences like ours at Hamilton, so she's well received. This is a problem. Activism isn't something we do for other likeminded people; it's something we do to rupture a perspective and inspire change. So Burrows' activism is not just misinformed, it's cowardly.

I don't disagree with Burrows' choice to write a comedic piece. Satire is an incredibly powerful medium, because it is written by taking things that people actually say and do, and reframing them to point out the underlying hypocrisy. But this play was not satire. Burrows' performance was, at best, a bad set of impressions, more focused on crowd pleasing than risk taking, more interested in "smelling like a joke" than actually being comedy, and more interested in impressing the Womyn's Center than actually confronting a movement that must, for everyone's sake, be confronted.

—Wynn Van Dusen '15

Hamilton College Judicial Board

The Judicial Board has three open positions for the Spring '15 semester available to members of the Class of 2016. Student representatives serve two roles; participation on Judicial Board hearings (typically one a year) and participation (paired with a Dean) in administrative hearings. Student Reps will typically co-conduct one to three 30 minute administrative hearings a week.

If you are interesting in serving on the Judicial Board for the Spring semester, please email Jeff Landry a one page platform as soon as possible explaining your interest and stating what strengths you would bring to the Board.

Understanding the terrorist threat and its complexity

by Bowin Lee '17
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

With the recent buzz over terrorist attacks flying around the news, the concept of the modern terrorist is becoming more and more caricatured. Americans, and the general global public, have continued to imagine the terrorist as a religion-crazed gun-waving fanatical psychopath whose only goal is to mow down as many of the western infidel as he can before he gets sent to paradise. On the surface, this may seem to be quite accurate due to recent media, most notably *American Sniper*, portraying terrorists as single-minded, bloodthirsty savages. This method of thinking is narrow-minded, shortsighted and simplistic. Ultimately this way of thinking is more dangerous to us than any single terrorist act. To most effectively destroy the enemy you must understand him. The killing of a terrorist squad is like pulling a single leaf off of a tree; it will come back after a short while. If you want to destroy a tree, you have to eliminate it from the roots.

Let me ask you a question: What do Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, ISIS and the Tamil Tigers all have in common besides rampant terrorism? The answer is simple: massive bureaucratic functions. In light of Bin-Laden's death, it has been found that Al-Qaeda maintained detailed records down to the sales of ordinary printing machines. Numerous studies have been conducted on both the individual terrorist as an agent, and how multiple agents group together to form a terrorist organization. There are very few studies as on bureaucracy and structure of terrorist groups that makes large scale attacks such as 9/11 and coordinated resistance to elite military organizations (such as the US military) possible. Terrorist organizations evolve into large-scale bureaucratic entities. Ever wonder where these seemingly endless waves of jihadist fanatics come from? Hezbollah provides many social services in its territories that the Lebanese government cannot. These include garbage disposal, healthcare (in the form of hospitals) and textbook discounts for local students. In exchange, Hezbollah gains legitimacy in the eyes of the Southern Lebanese populace, as well as steady stream of loyal fighters who are granted a pension if they fall in battle, much like any modern military. These operations are strictly confined to actions of a terrorist group on a single landmass. It would be remiss to forget that terrorists act overseas as well.

We do not seem to consider that the planning of terrorist attacks overseas is quite complex. After all, the recipe for a terrorist attack includes: a terrorist, a fanatical spirit, a few guns, a couple of bombs and a fast-track to some western devils, right? That would be correct, but amateurs talk tactics, experts talk logistics. The physical materials for attacks come from a large underground network requiring smooth and undetectable communication. Where does the overseas terrorist himself come from? He cannot just come from any old random mountain village. To comprehend the complexity of his mission, he must be highly educated. Professor Wu recommended to his Econ 101 class a book called *What Makes a Terrorist?* This book found that most terrorist executing agents had higher education degree, up to a Ph.D. They are people with the same inherent complexity and comprehension abilities as any Hamilton student, and that is what makes them extremely dangerous. This similarity is also why we, the American public, ignore the fact that our enemy is capable of nuanced thought. Instead we turn him into a one-dimensional boogeyman. We dislike linking ourselves with the enemy and distance ourselves rather than seeking understanding. Do not mistake the use of "understanding" for "sympathy." Terrorists commit horrible atrocities and are not to be sympathized with under any circumstances.

To tie this discussion into the immediate present, consider ISIS and what are they trying to accomplish in the long term. I make no claim to any in-depth tactical understanding, but feel justified enough to say that they understand insurgency and terrorism enough to play the long game. By buying the idea that ISIS is composed solely of mindless jihadis, we play directly into their hands. Terrorists are not barbarians. They are not animals. They are calculating, malicious and ruthless individuals. Their tactical skills must be respected up to a point, that being the point that makes it easier to handle and ultimately eliminate them. Failure to do so will result in more innocent lives lost. ISIS knows the longer they exist, the stronger and more concrete their organization becomes. The longer they exist, the more people die. The prime example of their extensive comprehension of the terrorist strategy is emblazoned on the front of their banner. The motto in Arabic under their infamous black flag reads "Baqia wa tatamadad": Remaining and Expanding.

RACK.COM

Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers operated with a sophisticated bureaucracy, while also using child soldiers.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Spoon University: A better food resource than pickup line.	**Snoccer:** Snore a snoal out there, team.	**Carnation Sale:** Buy one for yourself to feel better about being single. Feel much worse when it dies within 4 days and you spend the next month losing sleep and considering your mortality.
Date Auction for Microfinance: Spending Valentine's Day with someone you met two days ago is like applying ED after one college tour.	**Jitneys get cancelled:** We know the jitney is run by a third party because nothing at Hamilton stops for snow and no student can't rally post vomit.	**Late-night breakfast:** Commons is open late-night? What, like 9 PM?
BeTheMatch Marrow: Although the sexualized picture is misleading, this is not a new branch of match.com.	**Mid-year fire inspections:** When you hide your bong, hide your Bob Marley poster as well. And when you hide your tapestry, hide it in a trashcan.	**Jersey Boys ticket sales:** Confuse this with the Microfinance Date Auction and you could end up with a guy named Vinny who loves meatballs almost as much as he loves his ma.

by Jessye McGarry '16 and Carrie Solomon '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

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Celebrating twenty years of Opus

by Ilana Schwartz '17
Features Editor

Commons food getting you down? No fear…Opus is here—for 20w years! The start of spring semester marked Opus's 20th anniversary.

Imagine going to college without any decent coffee options. It's hard to do because coffee is a staple for us all, especially at this point in the semester when midterms and papers are lurking in the near future. Twenty years ago, though, before Opus opened, satisfactory coffee – let alone anything exceptional – was certainly not easy to find around here.

Sarah Goldstein and Larry Bender both arrived at Hamilton about two decades ago as "trailing spouses." Both of their spouses had jobs as professors at Hamilton, but Bender and Goldstein were both without jobs when they arrived. Being unemployed and unhappy about the lack of decent coffee in the area, they met at a faculty gathering and bonded over their similar situations. The espresso fad had not yet arrived in the northeast at all, so strong coffee was in high demand.

After much consideration, during which time Bender and Goldstein thought about opening a coffee shop in downtown Clinton, they decided to remain on campus. They wanted to have the opportunity to work closely with students, and they both agreed that it would be much more fulfilling work if they could serve the Hamilton community right here on the Hill. A year of brainstorming and construction went by, and in the spring semester of 1995, they finally opened with six student workers and 500 square feet of space. They served limited items, including coffee, espresso and assorted baked goods.

After a semester of successful business, Bender and Goldstein made the decision to expand to add meal options. They only added vegetarian options since it was also tough to find decent vegetarian food at the time. According to Bender, "Vegetarian food was a niche that we felt we could fulfill with the limited space" of the café. Each day, a different soup and entrée were served. Bender and Goldstein have run a fairly consistent business throughout the past 20 years, as they still serve a different soup and entrée option each day.

In order to create a social space for students, they planned to build a lounge in the area surrounding the café, which is exactly what the school allowed them to do in the empty space that existed in McEwen Hall. Goldstein and Bender purchased furniture from Goodwill, and professors and students alike donated old chairs and couches. From the start, they insisted on "an eclectic look" for the lounge area, according to Bender. In the early days of the café, before the Pub and the Barn existed, it was the main location for open mic nights. Goldstein and Bender wanted the space to be homey: a place where students could take their shoes off and just relax.

When the Taylor Science Center was under construction during the early 2000s, there was much discussion about opening another Opus in this new building. There was controversy with the design crew, who were barely even considering creating a space for a second Opus in the plans for the new building. However, the professors who worked in the Science Center supported the café because they wanted a place to grab lunch and coffee just like the professors had on the Kirkland side of campus. After much convincing from the professors, the architects finally included a space for Opus 2 in the building design. Goldstein and Bender agreed to make some changes in this new version of the café. First, they decided to have more packaged food options so that students and faculty members could "grab and go." Also, Goldstein and Bender unfortunately didn't have control of the space around the café, so they made the conscious decision to make the food more versatile for travel since the atrium wasn't considered to be part of their space.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BATSON '16

Students enjoy food and conversation in Opus.

Goldstein and Bender take student involvement in their business very seriously, which is exemplified by the amount of trust they put in the students they hire. They started with six student workers but today, they have around 35 between the two locations. According to Goldstein, they wanted the "face of the window to be students" because the space was made specifically for socializing. In the beginning of the business, students helped to design the lounge area by picking fabrics, donating furniture and offering artwork to decorate the space. Students have also helped create recipes to use for the meals and once in a while, Goldstein and Bender will even allow the students to make the entire menu for that day. Just last year, Opus 1 started opening on Sunday mornings to serve brunch. This was an entirely student-driven idea. Bender said that they, "approach all [their] students with a good faith approach" because they trust their students' ideas. Goldstein said that ever since they began, there has been a "constant flow of fantastic students" who work at Opus.

Many of the recipe ideas come from the Moosewood Recipe Book, which is from a restaurant in Ithaca, NY that specializes in vegetarian recipes. However, one of Opus's trademark meals, the mango brie panini, was a recipe created by a student several years ago. The idea of pairing fruit and cheese on a panini had never crossed Goldstein or Bender's minds, but the mango brie idea fueled other ideas like the apple cheddar panini. The owners are amazed that the mango brie panini is still as popular as it was when it was first created!

After 20 successful years, Hamilton College can only hope for 20 more, and maybe even an Opus 3.

Don't have a Valentine's Day date?

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WHERE?
SADOVE LIVING ROOM

WHEN?
7:00-9:00

WHY?
TO SUPPORT THE MICRO-FINANCE CLUB

SPEC'S TOP TEN FAVORITE VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS

1. Opus gift cards
2. Dinner off-campus
3. Mix tapes
4. Health Center condoms
5. Chocolate Grams from SLU
6. Carnations for charity
7. Cash
8. A puppy
9. A hug
10. A Buffergram

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Super Smash Bros. Club

by James Vees '16
Features Contributor

The idea for the club came from Ben Piegari '15, Will Wassmer '16 and myself. We participated in a Super Smash Bros. Melee tournament last spring hosted by the Philanthropy Committee and Delta Phi. Will and I placed disappointingly low, and we could tell we needed some more practice. However, when we watched Ben Piegari win the tournament with ease, using technical skills neither of us had even seen before, we knew there was a side to this game we never saw before. At this moment we learned about competitive Melee and began to play more with Ben until we decided to form a club to bring more people together.

Super Smash Bros. has gained a considerable amount of popularity over the last few years, yet many people do not know the extent to which one can play these games competitively. The most popular game in the competitive scene is the series' second release, Super Smash Bros. Melee. Although Nintendo released the game over 13 years ago, its competitive scene is now more popular than ever. Apex 2015, the most recent major tournament for the game, experienced the largest pool of Melee registrants of any tournament since the game's release, attracting over 1,000 entrants. Look up some videos from this tournament to see just how intricate and fast-paced it can be.

It may be hard to justify playing videogames so frequently at college; I certainly understand that. But if you enjoy the game already, it only takes a few hours each week before you could be one of the best in the school. Just ask Gregory Reeves '17 who earned a spot on our Melee Games team despite having played competitively for only a few weeks. Furthermore, the better you are at something, the more enjoyable it tends to be. So if Smash is a hobby of yours, I encourage you to see what it would be like to take it to the next level and learn about the mechanics and techniques the game has to offer. As with any hobby, it is rewarding to put effort into improving at the game and conquering new technical skills.

However, as much as I admire the game itself, the best thing about playing competitively is the community. The competitive Smash community is largely grassroots; some of the best players from each region hold tournaments regularly as a way to keep their hobby relevant and to meet new people. I was surprised to learn that one of the top 50 players in the world, Swiftbass, holds tournaments every two weeks in Connecticut, just 40 minutes from my home. Will and I first went to one of these in January, and everyone was very welcoming. This is exactly the type of community we hope to foster in the Clinton and Utica area. I believe anyone could benefit from getting involved with such a community.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES VEES '16

Members of Super Smash Bros. Club compete with each other in Saunders.

If there is appeal in bragging to your friends about how you pulled off a "drillshine upsmash" or a "ledge-canceled reverse bair to dair," competitive Smash may be for you. However, even if your only aspirations are to play the game casually from time to time, we fully encourage you to join us in playing each week. No matter how you choose to play Super Smash Bros., we would love to have you.

The Hamilton Super Smash Bros. Club exists for students to play games from the Super Smash Bros. series both recreationally and competitively. We play every Thursday night on the third floor of the Sadove Student Center, and we welcome all skill levels. If you would like to join simply show up or contact one of the founders (wvees@hamilton.edu, jwassmer@hamilton.edu, or bpiegari@hamilton.edu), and we can let you know about all of the Smash happenings on campus!

In the future we would like to host tournaments in the area and hopefully integrate into the local community; we have already had several people in the area reach out to us and attend our club meetings. The club has also assembled a team to travel to play against nearby schools as part of the 3rd Melee Games, a semester-long series of crew battles between colleges.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Gabe Skoletsky '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF GABE SKOLETSKY '16

Hometown: *New York, NY.*
Home on Campus: *Saunders.*
Major: *History and Music.*
Turn Off? *A dislike of Nutella.*
Do you have any nicknames? *"Gabey Baby."*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Saunders, because its magnificent kitchen is where other men and I belong.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Are you Stacy's Mom? 'Cause you got it goin' on."*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Ice Cream, because BuzzFeed told me so.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The fort that I tend to make under my bed.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Post-Structuralist Club seems like the place to be.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I would start a Polar Bear Club and organize routine swims in the Kennedy Center pond during the coldest winter months.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Without a doubt Nejla Asimovic. Hamilton just isn't the same without her.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Alessandra Chiriboga. Too bad Hamilton fails to keep these visiting professors around for a very long time.*
What would your perfect date be? *A mutually prepared home cooked meal with overpriced alcohol, on my roof overlooking New York City, accompanied by a blissful serenade by the sweet baritone of Frank Zappa.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *My roommate, Alex Popovic.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"The happiest place on Earth."*
What's your type? *People who are unapologetically weird.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick? *Adam Levine and Bing Crosby. A little too much of the old, and a tiny bit of the new.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Jazz music, bubble wrap and tomato sauce.*
What TV genre best describes you? *History Documentary.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Chaining the rock swing to the ground.*
What's the best book you read in the last year? One Nation Under Sex: How the Private Lives of Presidents, First Ladies and Their Lovers Changed the Course of American History.

Gracie Hochberg '18

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACIE HOTCHBERG '18

Hometown: *Kutztown, PA.*
Home on Campus: *Keehn.*
Major: *Undeclared.*
Turn Off? *Anyone who supported McCain/Palin in '08.*
Do you have any nicknames? *No.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Keehn because it's what I know.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Have my babies. No, seriously, take them from my hands; I don't know how they got here."*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *I would be pizza because I took a food quiz on BuzzFeed once, and that's what I got.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My single.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The Honor Court but just for the power.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *To have lights up in my room all year round without having to worry about the Fire Marshal throwing them out.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *This one guy with brown hair and brown eyes who's literally always in the weight room of the gym but I don't know his name.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Paul Krugman wrote one of my textbooks — does that count?*
What would your perfect date be? *A classy restaurant.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *My stuffed giraffe, Joe Biden.*
What fact about you surprises people the most? *I'm afraid of boiling water, traveling, the dark, birds, Hamilton's mascot and change.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Have it your way"... but sarcastically.*
What's your type? *Nice Jewish boys.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick? *Nicki Minaj and Bob Dylan because I either say everything or nothing at all.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *My Keurig, my dogs and the Internet.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Whatever genre CNBC is.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Using real names on Yik Yak.*
What's the best book you read in the last year? Underwater Dogs *by Seth Casteel.*

Countdown to the Oscars: *Boyhood* is as good as you've heard

by Brian Burns '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As a lead-up to the Academy Awards on Feb. 22, The Spectator *will be publishing a series on the nominated films. Richard Linklater's* Boyhood *is nominated for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Original Screenplay and Best Editing.*

NEWS.MOVIEFONA.CA

Best Supporting Actor nominee Ethan Hawke acts opposite the young Ellar Coltrane and Lorelei Linklater in *Boyhood*

More than any film in the past year, I wish I had discovered *Boyhood* on my own, years later when I had to dust off the film's DVD from a shelf. I wish the film's central conceit wasn't so easy to hype and hyperbolize. Yes, the film was shot over twelve years and yes, that's a big deal. However, *Boyhood* strikes me as a film that is reluctantly famous. Like its main character, it is shaggy and unassuming. Despite the epic scale, one rarely feels the sprawl of 12 years. Instead, the film is a series of patched-together moments. To describe *Boyhood* is to describe a series of fading Polaroids hung up on a line, or stray memories the film is determined to snatch up before they slip away. It is a testament to the film that when you're watching it, you forget about its reputation.

Ellar Coltrane portrays Mason Jr., the "boy" of the title who experiences life being raised in early '00s Texas. Throughout the film he transitions from the underachieving first-grader, to hormonal middle-school student, to a cerebral high school student who has almost, but not quite, figured out who he is. With the lack of definition that Mason begins with, it is easy to regard him as a proxy for the audience. His struggle is the perennial struggle of youth—trying to find a way to piece together scraps of an identity while being essentially confined to the school system for 12 years. His embarrassment is our embarrassment, especially during the cringe-worthy teenage years. He attempts rebellion in ways large (dope and parties) and small (deleting his Facebook page).

This is a film that exists in the moments between the bigger moments—the times you might not remember, but the ones that were truly important. There is no defining childhood experience like the summer in *Stand by Me*. We are spared seeing Mason's "first time" and the brutal breakups. It would be easy to argue that nothing "important" happens in the film. However, the truth is that a person's identity is assembled more in the quiet moments, in everyday living, than in any moment of bombast.

The film is as much an examination of family as it is of Mason's maturation. One of the running themes of the film is the concept that adults keep growing when nobody is actively noticing. This is seen in Mason's divorced parents. Ethan Hawke's Mason Sr. crashes into the film in a black sports car and rolls offscreen in a minivan with a child's seat in it. As the fun-loving father who becomes domesticated, each of Mason Sr.'s appearances see more of a quelling of his rebellion. Patricia Arquette as Mason's mother is the soul of the movie. She is the rough-hewn embodiment of motherhood (the character is a tribute to Richard Linklater's own single mother who raised him). Raising a pair of kids is characterized as a constant struggle that requires a fierce internal fire. She is Sisyphus attempting to push a boulder up a hill only to watch it roll down again. With so much of her life devoted to her kids, it is no surprise she repeats herself when falling in love with one drunkard after another. When she is finally done raising her children and can throw her hands up as Mason leaves for college, her cry of "I thought there would be more" rings true. Mason's more mischievous sister, Lorelei Linklater (the director's daughter) begins the film with unstoppable pep that slowly becomes stiff teenage detachment.

A film like this comes with nostalgia baked into the crust. The soundtrack spans the gap between the twilight years of Shania Twain and the Grammy win of Arcade Fire. The children in *Boyhood* are more infatuated with Harry Potter and Wii Sports. Some of these references feel like little jokes at the expense of media whose popularity came and went, but such added depth to the film comes with hindsight.

Linklater is the master of making filmmaking look casual. For example, *Boyhood* feels like a film shot from a lawn chair from which it is possible to kick back and observe. That is in no way a knock on the director—in fact, Linklater is the only director that could have made *Boyhood*. He has a gift for excising the inauthentic—the trappings of "Hollywood"—in any film. What is left is the essential humanity—the conversations that we have with the people we care about when everyone else has gone to sleep.

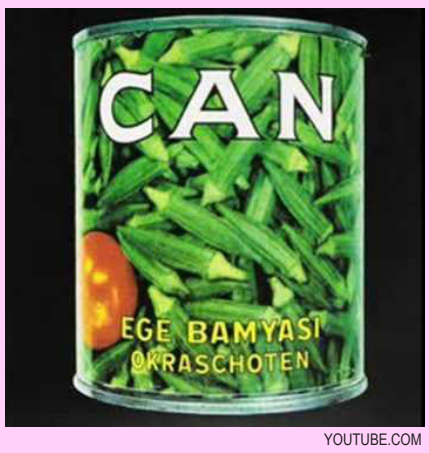
We treat childhood as just the long wait to adulthood rather than anything significant. We treat life as the time between larger events. However, what Linklater is arguing through his film is that the signposts do not matter. There is not one moment where we can see the seam between childhood and adulthood. We are always adjusting, adapting to the world we live in. Every moment counts. Whatever happens at the Oscars this year, nothing will dim the accomplishment of *Boyhood*. *Boyhood* is a bright, glittering tribute to life—a tiny flame that you can hold in your hand for a moment before it goes out.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:
Fresh FM
Tuesdays at 6p.m.

with...
Tyler Beckett '18 and Blake Warren '18

Tune in to *Fresh FM*, where the hits take the punches. Listen to your opinionated hosts T-Bone and DJ Whalberg break down and bag on the hottest classic hits. From the disco to funk to classic rock, nothing is safe from *Fresh FM*'s fits of fury.



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Typical Playlist:

"One More Night"
–Can

"Peg"
–Steely Dan

"Does Your Mother Know"
–Abba

"Mojo Hanna"
–Tami Lynn

"Lay Down Sally"
–Eric Clapton

Orpheus in the Underworld: choir musical is a roaring success

by Alexa Merriam '17
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This past weekend, the Hamilton College Choir incarnated the long-term visions of Margorie and Robert W. McEwen Professor of Music G. Roberts Kolb in a spectacular performance of Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Originally performed in French, Offenbach's 1858 production of *Orfée aux enfers* enjoyed success as the composer's first full-length operetta. The musical's fresh perspective on ancient Roman mythology did not originally please all critics, but anyone who experienced the stunning music and humor of the annual choir musical this year could appreciate the satirical treatment of gods and goddesses. Seeing the talented choir members clad in colorful 19th century Parisian costumes, singing and dancing to gorgeous new orchestral arrangements was a treat.

Orpheus in the Underworld twists the story of Orpheus and Eurydice. According to classic literature, Orpheus attempts to win back his wife Eurydice from the underworld after she dies. In Offenbach's satire, Orpheus, played by Brian Evans '15 is ecstatic when Pluto (Ben Goldman '17) drags Eurydice (Mackenzie Leavenworth '15) to the underworld, and he only ventures there after an anthropomorphized Public Opinion (Katie Puccio '15) insists upon it. Pluto relishes in the luxuries of the underworld, and soon the gods of Olympus revolt against Jupiter, king of the gods, played by Matthew Reinemann '17, causing a comical clash to ensue. Meanwhile Leavenworth plays a tantalizing woman of desire for Reinemann.

PHOTO BY BEN MITTMAN '18
Leavenworth '15 and Evans '15 portray Orpheus and Eurydice in this year's musical.

The English lyrics and script and updated music were all thanks to Professor Kolb. Since coming to Hamilton and assuming the role of Director of Choral Music in 1981, Kolb has never repeated a musical. Annual musicals over the past few years have ranged from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* to Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*. Kolb knew that this was the year to pursue Offenbach's work; Leavenworth has the soprano voice that can live up to the leading role of Eurydice, and the time was right to put on one of his favorite classical operettas.

Kolb said that translating the operetta from French proved a fun challenge since the French language has terms that do not have equivalents in English. Kolb explained how the memorable line "It's an outrage!" sung by the choir in Act II was one of the many phrases that came to him on a whim. "The orchestral arrangements were actually the most work," he said. Kolb referred to scores from original productions of the musical to create a soundtrack that suited the English words best.

Professor of Music Michael "Doc" Woods joined the orchestra established for this performance. He commented, "It was a ton of fun," a statement that seemed to reflect a common response from the entire cast after the curtains came to a close. The musical truly highlighted the vocal prowess of the Hamilton College Choir, as well as the members' theatrical ability to capture their characters' diverse range of fanciful energies.

What can we expect from Kolb in the future? "I will write a musical someday, [. . .] but there's not time, maybe after I retire," the professor admitted. Until then, Hamilton College can count on an excellent and varied array of hoir usicals over the coming years.

Collaboration is the theme of the night

by Haley Lynch '17
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Many contemporary artists are motivated to work collaboratively with experts in specific fields in order to achieve their creative goals. Alyson Shotz's most recent piece, entitled *The Bedroom: Time Lapse,* seems to epitomize this trend in today's art. The animated film, featured in Wellin Museum's current exhibition *Alyson Shotz: Force of Nature*, incorporates a variety of art forms into one whole to forge a new way of appreciating the theme of light in time and space. Shotz recruited animator Todd Akita and percussionist and music educator Nasheet Waits in order to realize her vision of reviving Vincent Van Gogh's portrayal of his bedroom in Arles.

In a panel discussion featuring all three artists on Tuesday, Feb. 10, Shotz explained that her goal had been to experiment with the flow of natural light, and in particular, "the phenomenon of light on color." By animating a time-lapse, she was able to demonstrate the variety of ways in which light and color might interact with time. Akita described his involvement in the process, illuminating some of the complexities of animation. The realistic appearance of *The Bedroom* was not based on a physical place, but entirely rendered through Akita's technological prowess. He commented on the challenge of creating lifelike artwork that would mimic the ways light would move in reality while still maintaining a sense of Shotz's aesthetic goals. "It was sometimes tricky to decide what problems are worth solving with which side of the brain," he said.

HAMILTON.EDU
Alyson Shotz's *The Bedroom: Time Lapse.*

During the panel, Waits talked about the different textures and "colors" that can be established through different techniques and new kinds of sounds. The soundtrack he created involved percussive and digital sounds, as well as piano and even breathing. The final product was exhibited on the night of Wednesday, Feb. 11, when Waits performed a live interpretation of his composition created for the film, which was screened alongside the musical performance.

The film itself is breathtaking. Shotz and Akita's contemporary rendering of Van Gogh's original piece drew attention to the elegant effects of light and gravity in our everyday world. The film can be interpreted as a comment on the way we construct the world we see around us or it can be viewed, more simply, as beauty created on screen; no explanation or interpretation necessary.

Waits' sonic contribution seemed to provide perfect context for the piece overall. The soundtrack he composed helped to create the sense of a modern, digitized Van Gogh that Shotz seemed so interested in. During the panel, he mentioned the loneliness felt by Van Gogh in this room, saying, "that kind of solitude permeated the whole work, for me." Certainly the sparseness of the playing and the musical "colors" and textures selected by Waits evoked a keen sense of loneliness throughout the film.

"Doctuh" Mike Woods' jazz sextet.

While his main inspiration seemed to be drawn from the percussive genre of instruments, Waits also included some piano and even the sound of breathing in his score. The piano, and especially the breathing, added a sense of human presence to the piece that might have otherwise been absent. It provided a way for the viewer to project him or herself into the dreamland embodied by the empty room, and even to begin to feel the loneliness therein.

The theme of loneliness in *The Bedroom: Time Lapse* seemed almost ironic, given the collaboration motif that seemed to tie the night together. Ultimately, the film functioned as an opener for Professor of Music "Doctuh" Mike Woods and his jazz sextet which featured the very same Nasheet Waits as a guest artist on the drums. Here again, although all artists were working in the same medium, each was able to bring his own personality and skill set, sculpting the sound in a way that could not have been achieved by any other set of individuals.

Many of the tunes performed were made up of new twists on old favorites, and several of Woods' original compositions were included as well. Waits' incredible drumming established a fabric into which the other players were able to weave melodies and harmonies perfectly. As each of the other players improvised, he matched their rhythms and patterns, building upon their notes while managing to leave plenty of space to breath. His beats were sometimes sparse and floating, sometimes crowding each other in their rush onward, but always flowing smoothly. Just as in his compositions for Shotz's film, Waits' drumming seemed to sculpt time itself.

PHOTOS BY ZACH BATSON '16
Guest drummer Nasheet Waits.

Among the tunes performed was a Woods original: "Sumpthin' for the Soul." As he introduced this piece, he revealed that this was in fact only the second time it had ever been played. The group was almost completely sight-reading. Still, consistent with the collaborative theme of the night, they were able to work together, to communicate as they played, to give the song shape and meaning even as they were bringing it to life. Guitarist Chris Woods added a lot of soul to the tune, while Tom Witowski imparted his sense of humor on piano.

The group also played several well-known jazz standards, including "Sugar": "something really simple, so we all get a chance to get stupid with it," according to Woods. This tune came off wonderfully full of new patterns and rhythms as the group worked to impart its own spin on this classic tune. Both Bob Cesari on saxophone and John Piazza on trumpet improvised solos that demonstrated their extreme expertise. The final tune, entitled "Baby Go Home," provided a perfect high-energy finale for the night.

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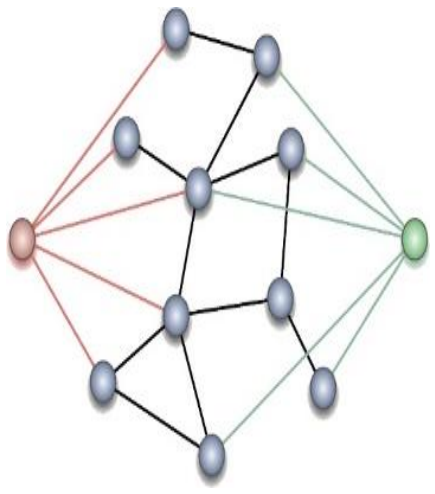

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Wetlands Institute
Wilton Public Schools

Hamilton
CAREER AND LIFE OUTCOMES CENTER

B-ball hopes to finish season on a high note

by Gregory Nabhan '18
Sports Writer

Trying to salvage their season, the men's basketball team looks to keep their losses in single digits. Unfortunately, their recent NESCAC losses have taken a toll on their season, as they have been eliminated from the NESCAC playoffs and NCAA's.

After their stunning victory over Williams, the team continued their run with victories over out of league competition Alfred State 68-51 and Keystone College 82-56. "We played really well in both games," said Head Coach Adam Stockwell. "The defense was great, we rebounded the ball pretty well, and we continued to score the ball very well. It was a good week."

Junior Ajani Santos has played well this season and hopes to help lead the Conts next season.

Following these wins, they unfortunately went on to suffer a tough overtime loss to Middlebury 77-82. "Losing to Middlebury in OT was heartbreaking, they were the team that knocked us out of the playoffs last year in a three point game," said captain Peter Kazickas '15.

Hamilton was outrebounded by 33 in the game, which Coach Stockwell cited as the reason for their loss. "To get to overtime was still pretty impressive, but if we had handled the back boards a little better, we could have come away with a win."

The team continued with losses to Tufts 63-70 and Bates 71-73, thereby eliminating their playoff hopes. "It's a position I've never been in before and its definitely hard to swallow," said Kazickas.

While Hamilton sits at number one in field goal percentage, struggles with rebounds and defense once again got the better of them. "I fully believed we could win all of those games," Kazickas assured *The Spectator*. "Unfortunately we just didn't make the plays down the stretch that we needed to make.

Looking back on the season, both Coach Stockwell and Kazickas made an effort to highlight senior Joe Lin's play throughout the year. "I can't say enough good things about Joe Lin. I've believed in him since day one, and he really proved this year how great of a player he is," complemented Kazickas. "I'm so excited to see him play professionally, wherever he ends up, and I hope that he'll be able cap off his career here in style despite suffering a knee injury in our last game."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Captain Joe Lin '15 will play his final game for the Continentals this Friday, Feb. 13 at home against Wesleyan.

Kazickas also expressed appreciation for the ability to see his younger teammates, particularly the first-years, get a chance to step up against Bates. "They proved that they are ready to compete at a high level, and should be very excited about the future."

However, the current season is not over yet. The team has two remaining games, both at home, on their schedule with Wesleyan and Conn College. Wesleyan should be particularly exciting as they enter the game in need of a win to get into the playoffs.

With two victories and some outside help Hamilton can finish the year at eighth in the NESCAC. "This was certainly not the way we imagined the season would go," said Kaziackas. "But hopefully we can end our careers on a high note with two wins in front of our friends and family."

Continental Sports Highlights

Men's Hockey

The Continentals tied against Colby 2-2 this past weekend and will take on Tufts and Connecticut College on the road this weekend.

Women's Hockey

The women's team beat Wesleyan at home this past weekend and will play both Bowdoin and Colby twice to finish up their season.

Women's Squash

The women's team finished sixth at NESCAC championships and will be competing in the 'C' draw at Nationals this upcoming weekend at Harvard University.

Men's Squash

The men's team finished ninth at NESCAC championships and will be competing in the 'D' draw at Nationals in two weeks at Trinity.

Senior Athlete of the Week: Joe Jensen

by Max Newman '16
Sports Editor

Name: Joe Jensen

Hometown: West Windsor, NJ

Sport: Indoor Track and Baseball

Favorite Professional Athlete?
Vinnie Testaverde

How you got introduced to track?
I wanted to stay in shape for baseball and get faster. My roommate at the time, Dan Baer, was also doing track so it made it easy to get started.

Favorite thing to do on campus besides your sport?

Playing video games with friends

What is the toughest obstacle you have had to overcome in your athletic career?
I got pneumonia my freshman year of college and missed two weeks of school. Bouncing back from losing 15 pounds and catching up with school work was tough.

How has the program evolved over the past four years?
The track program, thanks to large freshman classes and hard work, has made astounding strides. We never were placing this highly as a team when I first started.

Now we have placed in the top three every meet this year. This is even cooler given the fact we have far fewer numbers than our competition, which just shows how talented our team is.

We are no longer just trying to compete in our individual events. Now we know our performances play a role in a team score as well.

Have you fulfilled your expectations for your senior season?

I still have a long way to go with track and an even longer way to go with baseball so I can't answer that yet.

What was your favorite sports moment at Hamilton?
I don't think it has happened yet. There are some big weeks in track coming up, and I expect to have some great team wins in baseball this year.

Jensen had three first place finishes at the home meet.

He also holds the school record with 29 steals in a single season.

HAMILTON SPORTS WINTER SCHEDULES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
2/14: Class of '32 Invitational
2/20: Bomber Quad
2/27-2/28: NYSCTC Championships

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
2/13-2/15: Women's National Championships
2/20-2/22: Men's National Championships

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY
2/13: Away vs. Bowdoin
2/14: Away vs. Bowdoin
2/21: Home vs. Colby
2/22: Home vs. Colby

MEN'S BASKETBALL
2/13: Home vs. Wesleyan
2/14: Home vs. Connecticut College

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
2/13: Away vs. Wesleyan
2/14: Away vs. Connecticut College

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY
2/13: Away vs. Tufts
2/14: Away vs. Connecticut College
2/20: Home vs. Williams
2/21: Home vs. Middlebury

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 12, 2015

Track & field teams prepare for championship season

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Writer

Both the men's and women's track and field teams have seen much success in the first half of the indoor track season. With just a few meets remaining in the season, the teams are preparing for the NYSCTC (State) Championships and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Championships.

The Continentals hosted the Hamilton Invitational meet at the Scott Field House on Jan. 31. The women's team had wins in two events and many athletes finished in the top 10 of their respective events. In the 5,000-meter run, Lindsay Heyer '17 placed first with an ECAC qualifying time of 18:41.59. The Continentals did particularly well in the 1,000-meter run, with four runners placing in the top 10. With a time of 3:13.18, Hanna Jerome '18 won the race, followed closely by teammate Tina Choinski '15, who claimed second place.

"The team is full of really promising young runners. We've had a lot of good performances already this year, but the trajectory of this team is even more exciting," said Sky Autila '15.

The men's team saw first place finishes in five events and many personal bests for athletes across all events. 2014 All-American Joe Jensen '15 was a part of three of the five event victories, including the 200-meter dash, where Jensen finished in 22.27 seconds—the second fastest time in the nation for Division III this season.

Jensen also won the 400-meter and participated in the first place 4x200-meter relay with Eli Saucier '18, Max Newman '16 and Leonard Kilekwang '16. Jon Stanhope '18 won the 1000-meter run in 2:44.69. Off the track, Preston DeLaurentis '18 won the triple jump with a jump of 43 feet, 2.25 inches.

"Our confidence is growing with each weekend. We have had some standout performances but more impressively the whole team has taken a step forward" said captain Evan Abelson '16.

This past weekend, the men's and women's teams traveled to SUNY-Brockport for the Brockport Mid-Season Classic. The women placed eighth, scoring a total of 37 team points. The men came in second, with 84 points, only outscored by the host, SUNY-Brockport.

Lindsay Heyer '17 qualified for the ECAC Championships in the 3K run last week at Brockport.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Peter Deweirdt '18 has shown promise as a mid-distance runner in his first indoor season.

Although they did not place first in any event, the women's team had four runner-up finishes and many impressive individual performances. Heyer and Jerome carried success from the Hamilton Invitational to Brockport, finishing in second place in 3000-meter run and the 800-meter dash respectively, both qualifying for the ECAC championships in these events. The Continentals also had two relays finish in second place, the 1600-meter relay and the distance medley. Rounding out the scoring for the women's team was Yuwen Michelson '17, who came in fourth place in the triple jump.

"The team has been steadily improving throughout the first half of the season, many people had season's bests in the last meet at Brockport and overall the team is getting in a lot better shape," Michelson said.

The men's team had a very strong overall performance at Brockport. Individuals across almost all of the events scored points for the Continentals. Jensen won both the 400-meter and the 200-meter dash with times of 22.32 seconds and 49.20 seconds respectively, ranking him second in Division III in the 400 and third in Division III in the 200. Jensen also placed sixth in the 60-meter dash, one spot ahead of fellow teammate Saucier. Saucier also finished behind Jensen in second place in the 200 and eighth in the 400-meter dash.

"Across my four years as a member of the Track and Field program here this is by far the most comprehensive and deepest team we have had. A lot of that is in large part to a number of freshman stepping up and making an impact on the team," said captain Dan Baer '15.

The men's and women's teams will travel to Colgate next weekend for the Class of '32 invitational and then head to Ithaca College on Feb. 20 for the Bomber Quad in the final meet before the championship season begins.

"We just need to keep improving and get all of our qualifications done for the coming championship season," Jensen said. "We just need to stay healthy and keep working hard."

Hamilton Winter Sports Highlights

*see **Continental Highlights,** page 14*

Men's basketball update

*see **Basketball,** page 14*

Senior Athlete of the Week Proflie

*see **Joe Jensen,** page 15*